

## SECTION XVI.

## THE ADVANTAGES OF THE RIDGE AND FURROW SYSTEM

Are, that when the ridges or beds are well put up without too great an inclination, it facilitates drainage by breaking up the crust formed on the surface of land that is sometimes so close and tenacious as to prevent the water from sinking into the subsoil beneath the roots of plants; it exposes a greater surface and depth of land to the action of the sun and air; it enables land to be cultivated that cannot be cultivated on the hill and check method, or any other method; it renders land drier and less subject to the destructive effects of wet seasons; it makes land easier to work at all times, with less injury to the crops; the plowing of spring and summer are less hazardous and laborious; the tillage of spring and summer is more certain and effectual; the crops have a nice, mellow bed of loose, dry and warm earth to grow and expand in above the cold and wet subsoil; in fact, an artificial climate is produced, which improves the health, and hastens the growth of young and tender plants that demand such especial care during spring; and finally, it prevents land from washing away, and is the basis and support of the horizontal culture.

## SECTION XVII

## THE CHECK AND HILL METHOD.

This method answers a good purpose on very loose, porous, level pine lands, for potatoes and ground peas, cultivated mostly with the hoe. It is objectionable to the horizontal culture because it upsets and breaks up the horizontal rows, and turns the water loose, on the land, and destroys the effect desired by the horizontal system.

## SECTION XVIII.

## PLOWING STRAIGHT ROWS BY STAKES.

This method has been pursued by farmers, for ages, and is the favorite plan with the majority of them at this time.

The great ambition of the plowman who lays off the rows, is to make them perfectly straight, regardless of hill or valley, across the field from fence to fence; nothing but a ditch stops him.

It is astonishing to see the accuracy with which it can be done by a few stakes set in a line with each other. Of course, the rows make beautiful drains to dry the hills, and cover up and drown the valleys with sand and water. The hill tops and sides are in a few years cut into gullies, and the soil precipitated into the valleys to impoverish them with sand and clay.